(c) the action taken by Government on these complaints and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure the quality assurance for the material being supplied to the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) is entrusted with the responsibility of Quality Assurance of Arms and Equipment supplied to the Army.

The DGQA carries out this activity through a process of Quality Audit and surveillance during production and inspection and performance testing for acceptance against specifications of the equipment given in the supply order.

(b) DGQA has 29 Controllerates of Quality Assurance and 78 field Quality Assurance Establishments in the country. The total number of defects reported to Controllerates by the users during the last three years is approximately 400 per year.

(c) and (d) The defects reported have been investigated by the DGQA in association with the designer, manufacturer and user. The outcomes of these defect investigations have been intimated to manufacturer and user to initiate remedial action. Quality improvement is a continuous process, which is achieved by introduction of modem equipment and process/product improvement based on feedback of users.

Erratic functioning of MiG-21s

923. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that upgraded MiG-21s are found to be erratic in their function as was found in the accident which occurred in Jamnagar (Gujarat) on 17th January, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure safer operations of MiG-21 s?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. The upgraded MiG-21 is a stable weapon aircraft and the Indian Air

Force has successfully completed more than 10,000 hours of safe flying on these aircraft since their induction into service in 2002.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Production of sensors Indigenously

924. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether installation of sensors on our Borders can play a very effective role in dealing with cross-border infiltrators and cross-border terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bharat Dynamics, DMRL, ECIL, AMD of Hyderabad; NPL of Delhi and Ahmedabad, BARC, NT of Bombay and I.I.S; of Bangalore are fully equipped with research and Technology to produce sensors indigenously;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to make use of these research and development by these organizations to produce sensors; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The installation of sensors along with erection of fencing and other surveillance devices as well as a robust and dynamic deployment posture of troops can play an effective role in bringing down the level of cross-border infiltration. Sensors could be radar sensors, opto-electronic sensors and buried pressure sensors.

(c) to (e) Indigenous sources of supply of sensors are available and these sources are also considered for supply of sensors to Indian Army and para military forces for use on border fencing.